United Nations E/AC.51/2008/L.4/Add.32

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
2 July 2008

Original: English

Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-eighth session
9 June-3 July 2008
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-eighth session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Stefania **Rosini** (Italy)

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2010-2011
(Item 3(b))

Programme 22
Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 17th meeting, on 23 June 2008, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/63/6 (Prog.22)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Appreciation and support were expressed for the work of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

4. Clarification was sought on the distribution of work between the offices in Geneva and New York, the transition from relief to recovery, the cluster approach and the coordination mechanisms between all actors involved in humanitarian assistance, the impact of the current mandate review on the development of the proposed biennial programme plan and how the concept of accountability was reflected in the plan. The view was expressed that extrabudgetary and regular budget activities needed to be well coordinated so as not to counter one another. Concern was expressed about how environmental effects would impact rehabilitation and recovery following natural disasters.

08-41050 (E) 030708

5. Clarification was also sought on the concept of human security, the basis for the creation of the Human Security Unit and the Unit's activities.

6. The view was expressed that some of the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement needed further improvement and refinement.

7. Concern was expressed about the development and promotion of a common policy on humanitarian issues given that each humanitarian situation was different. The view was expressed that collaboration with national authorities and regional and subregional organizations was crucial for the success of the response to humanitarian crises. The view was also expressed that national ownership in and response to natural disasters was crucial for a well-coordinated international and local response.

8. Regret was expressed that no reference had been made in the document to the participation of volunteers, "White Helmets", in humanitarian operations. Concern was expressed about crimes against aid workers, which rendered the situation of civilians worse. Concern was also expressed that, in spite of the importance of the dissemination of information through the Internet, ReliefWeb was only available in English.

9. The view was expressed that emphasis should be placed on General Assembly resolution 46/182, which was the basis for the activities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and United Nations humanitarian assistance. Concern was expressed that some of the activities undertaken by the Office were beyond its mandates. Concern was also expressed that the cluster approach was included and yet was an issue still under discussion among Member States.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of programme 22, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed biennial programme plan, subject to the following modifications:**

Overall orientation

Paragraph 22.2

In the last sentence, after the word "timely", replace "response" with "humanitarian assistance".

At the end of the last sentence, insert the words "in accordance with its respective mandates".

Paragraph 22.3

In the third sentence, after the words "issue in", replace "the clusters" with "all areas".

Subprogramme 1
Policy and analysis

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), delete the words "and policy responses".

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

In the title of the subprogramme, after the word "humanitarian", replace "action" with "assistance".

Expected accomplishment of the Secretariat

In expected accomplishment (c), replace the words "strategies for emergency response" with "humanitarian assistance".

Indicators of achievement

In indicator of achievement (c), after the words "instances where the", add "particular".

Strategy

Paragraph 22.9

After the words "enhance preparedness", delete "in countries at risk for crisis" and replace "identified through" with "based on".

At the end of the paragraph, add the words "and resolution 58/114".

Paragraph 22.10

At the end of the paragraph, add the sentence "The Division will also provide support for the strengthening of the cooperation between assisting and recipient countries".

Paragraph 22.11

At the beginning of the second sentence, add the words "In this regard,"; after the words "United Nations agencies", add "Member States,"; after the words "non-governmental organizations", add "and relevant authorities"; delete the words "Member States, regional parliamentarians".

In the seventh sentence, after the words "dialogue and", replace "monitoring" with "follow-up"; before the word "donors", add "Member States and other".

In the thirteenth sentence, replace the words "systematic, structured and well-managed humanitarian response system" with "strengthened, structured and well-managed mechanisms of coordination for humanitarian response".

Paragraph 22.12

Before the word "agenda", delete "reform"; after the words "humanitarian coordinators include", delete "policy and"; replace the words "leading in-country efforts to apply the principles and the modalities" with "the development"; after the words "cluster approach", add ", while taking into account ongoing intergovernmental discussions"; before the words "ensure that all of its field staff", add "in this regard"; after the words "clusters at the field level", add ", as appropriate"; at the end of the paragraph, replace the words "and the cluster leads, the appropriate and most efficient implementation of the cluster approach" with "to provide more information on its implementation".

Subprogramme 3
Natural disaster reduction

Strategy

Paragraph 22.16

In the third sentence, replace the words "high-risk countries" with the words "disaster-prone countries".

Subprogramme 4
Emergency support services

Strategy

Paragraph 22.18

In the first sentence, replace the words "the development and strengthening of the response capacities of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs" with "the development and strengthening of the capacities for coordination of humanitarian response of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs".

Paragraph 22.19

In the first sentence, replace the words "humanitarian and other partners" with "relevant partners". After the words "intergovernmental and", add "relevant"; after the words "military-military coordination", add "upon the request of Member States"; replace the words "inter alia, through" with "by implementing".

Subprogramme 5
Humanitarian emergency information and advocacy

Strategy

Paragraph 22.21

In the first sentence, after the words "humanitarian principles", add "as set out in resolutions 46/182 and 58/114".

Paragraph 22.23

In the last sentence, replace the words "standards and practices for humanitarian information management, ultimately working towards" with "tools for".

Legislative mandates

Subprogramme 2
Coordination of humanitarian action and emergency response

General Assembly resolutions

Add the following resolutions:

58/114 Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

60/124 Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

Security Council resolutions

Add the following resolution:

1674 (2006) Protection of civilians in armed conflict